Explosives in imported metal scrap

*268. SHRI LALIT .SURI:
SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from where metal scrap was allowed to be imported during 2004;

(b) whether the imported metal scrap contained explosive war-heads both used and live that caused loss of life and property as live war-heads exploded at various places in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that such dangerous imports are banned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Recently certain cases have come to the notice of the Government wherein metallic scrap containing used and live shells have been imported thereby causing explosions and consequently loss of life and property. These imports are clearly in violation of the Foreign Trade Policy and the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. After a series of Inter-Ministerial consultations the Government has laid down certain new guidelines and procedures for import of metallic scrap and waste. According to these procedures import of all kinds of metallic scrap and waste in unshredded, compressed or loose form will be accompanied by a pre-inspection certificate to the effect that the imported consignment does not contain any ammunition, or other explosive material or radio-active material irrespective of the source of such imports. Such imports will also be subject to stringent examination according to the procedures laid down by the Customs. Imports will also be restricted through fifteen ports only.

The details of the country from where metal scrap was imported during 2004 is available in the Publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II (Imports) —Annual Number* published by Directorate General of Commercial intelligence & Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library.